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March 1st.

Vice-President VAUX in the Chair.

Eleven members present.

The following were presented for publication :—

“Synonymy of the Strepomatidæ of North America.” By Geo. W. Tryon, Jr.

“Thoughts on the Influence of Ether upon the Solar System.” By A. Wilcocks, M. D. Part III.

March 8th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Thirty members present.

The following was presented for publication :

“Additions to the Catalogue of Stars which have changed their colors.” By Jacob Ennis.

March 15th.

Vice-President VAUX in the Chair.

Twenty members present.

The following were presented for publication :

“Note on the Nomenclature of Genera and Species of Echeinei-
doidæ,” and “Description of a new labroid Genus allied to Trochoco-
pus.” By Theo. Gill.

“New Species of Mordellestina collected in Illinois.” By C. A. Helmuth, M. D.

Notes on the Birds of Jamaica.” By W. T. March, with remarks
by S. F. Baird. Part III.

Dr. Leconte remarked, that his attention had been called to the following passage in the Report on the progress of Entomology, by Dr. Gerstaecker, in the last number of Tröschel's Archiv für Naturgeschichte, in which he refers to the Classification of the Coleoptera of North America, Part I, by Dr. Leconte.

“Die Stylopiden setzt der Verf. unter die Heteromeren, bemerkt aber das die Tarsen nicht heteromer seien, was richtig ist. Früher habe man sie als eigne Ordnung betrachtet, aber die Kenntniss ihrer Verwandlungen, und eine genauere, [more rigid!] Interpretation ihrer äusseren Baues habe fast alle [nearly all!] Systematiker dazu bestimmt, sie unter die Käfer zu bringen. (Welche Charactere hat ein Strepsipteron mit einem Käfer gemein?—Keinen! Wo sind die Ubereinstimmungen der Larven und ihrer Lebensweise? Die Strepsipteren Larven leben parasitisch in Hinterleibe von Hymenopteren, die Meloïden Larven nähren sich von Honig; beide haben also in der Lebensweise nichts untereinander gemein.”)

“In Elementarbüchern sollte man Absurditäten am Wenigsten für baare Münze ausgeben!”

I do not propose here to enter into a discussion of the views which have induced Lacordaire, Burmeister, Newman and Schaum to consider Stylopidae as a family of Coleoptera, an opinion which many others have silently acquiesced in. The subject was considered nearly exhausted, until reopened by Duval, in 1864.]

his note on the order Rhipiptera, (Gen. Col. Europe, 3,419), published subsequently to my work on Classification.

I will, however, answer briefly the questions asked by Dr. Gerstaecker in the passage above cited.

The characters common to a Strepsipteron and various Coleoptera are these :
 1. Hypermetamorphosis of the larva, (Meloidæ); 2. Parasitism, (Rhipidius);
 3. Retention of the Pupa within the skin of the larva, (Lampyridæ, tribe Lycini, genus Calopteron); 4. Unfitness of anterior wings for flight, (a character also found in Orthoptera and Hemiptera, which, however, have no metamorphosis);
 5. Large development of metathoracic segment.

Even if the Stylopidae are considered as a distinct order—Strepsiptera—it will be necessary to place them immediately after the Coleoptera.

In view of the great variation of characters found in Coleoptera, it would seem rational to consider Stylopidae as an extreme and degraded form of that order, rather than to regard such a small number of objects, closely related in form, structure and habits, as an equivalent to the great orders Coleoptera, Orthoptera and Hemiptera, with which alone they can be morphologically compared, (characters 4 and 5).

The information given by Dr. Gerstaecker regarding the difference in food and manner of life between the larvæ of Meloidæ and Stylopidae, though not original, is doubtless quite interesting, but seems to imply that I had compared them together, which is not correct.

Mr. Cassin called the attention of the Academy to the collection of birds presented this evening by the Smithsonian Institution, and particularly referred to several species of great rarity and scientific value. The *Didunculus strigirostris* is one of two species of birds now known to be approaching extinction, the other species being *Alca impennis*, which is also in the Academy Museum. This bird is the most nearly allied to the extinct Dodo, formerly of the Isle of France, and inhabits the Samoan or Navigator Islands. Its extinction or approach to it is said to be owing to the introduction into those islands of the domestic cat. Not more than four or five specimens are known to be extant.

Other little known types were pointed out and exhibited to the Academy, such as *Carpophaga Auroræ*, *Carpophaga latrans*, *Artamus mentalis* and others. This interesting series is from the collection of the United States Exploring Expedition of the Vincennes and Peacock, and is presented to the Academy by the Smithsonian Institution.

March 22d.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Seventeen members present.

The following were presented for publication :

"Critical Remarks on the Genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastodes*," and
 "Second Contribution to the Selacology of California." By Theo. Gill.

"A Critical review of the Family Procellariidæ; Part I." By E. Coues, M. D.

"Thoughts on the Influence of Ether on the Solar System; Part IV." By Alex. Wilcocks, M. D.

March 29th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Seventeen members present.

[March